

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A coupling device for attaching to an anchor member, the coupling device comprising:

a frame defining a void therein and a first opening to the void, and further defining a mouth that is separate from the void, the mouth defining an opening thereto,

a lever movably mounted to the frame at a mounting location, the lever having a distal end that is movable relative to the frame between a first position in which the distal end of the lever covers the opening of the mouth and a second position in which the distal end of the lever does not cover the opening of the mouth~~open position that allows the anchor member to be received within, and removed from, the mouth and a closed position that retains the anchor member within the mouth,~~ the lever defining a manipulation portion between the mounting location and the distal end, the manipulation portion ~~that is responsive to a direct pushing force applied thereto to extend through the first opening and into the void when the lever moves from the closed to the open~~ first position to the second position, and

a biasing member positioned between the lever and the frame, the biasing member ~~normally biasing the lever in the closed~~ biasing the lever toward the first position.

42. (Currently Amended) The coupling device of claim 41 wherein the frame further defines a second opening ~~[[to]]~~ separate from the mouth,

and wherein the distal end of the lever extends out of the second opening when the lever is moved from the ~~closed position to the open~~ first position to the second position.

43. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 wherein the lever further defines a bias engagement portion between the mounting location and the distal end, the biasing member positioned between the frame and the bias engagement portion of the lever.

44. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 further comprising a cover configured to receive the frame and lever therein, the cover defining a mouth that aligns with the mouth defined by the frame when the frame is received within the cover.

45. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 44 wherein the cover defines an opening through which the manipulation portion of the lever is accessible.

46. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 44 wherein the cover comprises a plurality of surfaces that are configured to resemble corresponding portions of a head of an animal.

47. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 46 wherein the plurality of surfaces are configured to resemble corresponding portions of a head of a dog.

48. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 44 wherein the plurality of surfaces are configured to resemble one or more of a pair of ears, a pair of eyes, a nose, a nose ridge, whisker indentations, a rounded head and a rounded forehead, of the animal.

49. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 48 wherein mouth defined by the cover is configured to resemble a mouth of the animal and the distal end of the lever is configured to resemble a tooth of the animal.

50. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 49 wherein the plurality of surfaces are configured to resemble corresponding portions of a head of a dog.

51. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 further comprising means for protecting the lever from dust and chipping.

52. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 further comprising means for allowing a user to simultaneously maintain a grip on the coupling device while moving the lever to the open position.

53. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 further comprising means for distinguishing by either or both of feel and sight the coupling device from another device.

54. (Currently Amended) The coupling device of claim 41 wherein the frame and the lever comprise a frame assembly, the frame assembly being formed of metal, and further comprising means for ~~providing temperature resistance from~~ thermally insulating the metal of the frame assembly.

55. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 41 further comprising a mounting assembly mounted to the frame and configured to attach to any of a flexible, semi-flexible, semi-rigid and rigid elongate member.

56. (Currently Amended) A coupling device for attaching to an anchor member, the coupling device comprising:

a frame defining a mouth, the mouth defining an opening thereto,

a lever movably mounted relative to the frame and having a first position in which the distal end of the lever covers the opening of the mouth and a second position in which the distal end of the lever does not cover the opening of the mouth~~an open position that allows the anchor member to be received within, and removed from, the mouth and a closed position that retains the anchor member within the mouth,~~ the lever having a manipulation portion responsive to a pushing force applied ~~thereto to~~ directly to

the manipulation portion to move the lever between the ~~closed position and the open~~
first position and the second position.

a biasing member biasing the lever toward the ~~closed position~~ first position, and
a cover configured to receive the frame, lever and biasing member therein, the
cover defining a mouth that aligns with the mouth defined by the frame when the frame
is received within the cover, the cover further defining a plurality of surfaces that are
configured to resemble at least a nose, eyes and ears ~~corresponding portions of~~ on a
head of a dog.

57. (Currently Amended) The coupling device of claim 56 wherein the plurality
of surfaces are configured to further resemble one or more of ~~a pair of ears, a pair of~~
~~eyes, a nose,~~ a nose ridge, whisker indentations, a rounded head and a rounded
forehead, of the dog.

58. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 57 wherein the mouth
defined by the cover is configured to resemble a mouth of the dog and the distal end of
the lever is configured to resemble a tooth of the dog.

59. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 56 wherein the cover is
colored.

60. (Previously presented) The coupling device of claim 59 wherein the color is selected from the group consisting of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, white, magenta, cyan, violet, purple, tan, pink, and beige.